

**PROPOSED FINAL RULES AND PROCEDURES ON MANAGEMENT OF
COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS UNDER REQUIREMENTS OF SB 960**

[codify as new Article 2.5 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure]

4. (Rule 4) Applicability.

- (a) The rules and procedures in this Article shall apply to any formal proceeding (except for a complaint under Rule 13.2) that is filed after January 1, 1998.
- (b) The rules and procedures in this Article shall also apply to a formal proceeding that is filed before January 1, 1998, in the following circumstances:
 - (1) the proceeding is an "included proceeding" pursuant to Resolution ALJ-170 (January 13, 1997); or
 - (2) there has not, as of January 1, 1998, been a prehearing conference held or a determination made to hold a hearing in the proceeding, and the Commission, assigned Commissioner, or assigned Administrative Law Judge thereafter determines, by ruling or order, that a hearing should be held in the proceeding.
- (c) Any proceeding to which the rules and procedures in this Article do not apply will be handled under the otherwise applicable Commission rules and procedures.
- (d) For purposes of this Article, a proceeding initiated by a Commission order is filed as of the date of issuance of the order. A proceeding initiated by an application or complaint is filed as of the date it was tendered for filing in compliance with the rules and procedures of Article 2.
- (e) Where the rules and procedures of this Article apply to a proceeding by virtue of subsection (b)(2) of this rule, nothing in this Article shall be construed to render invalid, or to require repetition of, procedural steps taken prior to such applicability. However, those procedural steps taken after such applicability must comply with this Article wherever requiring such compliance would not invalidate or repeat procedural steps taken previously.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 7 [PU Code § 1701.1(a)(c)(1)-(3)]

5. (Rule 5) Definitions.

- (a) “Category,” “categorization,” or “categorized” refers to the procedure whereby a proceeding is determined for purposes of this Article to be an adjudicatory, ratesetting, or quasi-legislative proceeding. “Appeal of categorization” means a request for rehearing of the determination of the category of a proceeding.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 7 [PU Code § 1701.1(a)]

- (b) “Adjudicatory” proceedings are: (1) enforcement investigations into possible violations of any provision of statutory law or order or rule of the Commission; and (2) complaints against regulated entities, including those complaints that challenge the accuracy of a bill, but excluding those complaints that challenge the reasonableness of rates or charges, past, present, or future.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 7 [PU Code § 1701.1(a), (c)(2)]

- (c) “Ratesetting” proceedings are proceedings in which the Commission sets or investigates rates for a specifically named utility (or utilities), or establishes a mechanism that in turn sets the rates for a specifically named utility (or utilities). “Ratesetting” proceedings include complaints that challenge the reasonableness of rates or charges, past, present, or future. For purposes of this Article, other proceedings may be categorized as ratesetting, as described in Rule 6.1(c).

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 7 [PU Code § 1701.1(a), (c)(3)]

- (d) “Quasi-legislative” proceedings are proceedings that establish policy or rules (including generic ratemaking policy or rules) affecting a class of regulated entities, including those proceedings in which the Commission investigates rates or practices for an entire regulated industry or class of entities within the industry.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 7 [PU Code § 1701.1(a), (c)(1)]

- (e) “Ex parte communication” means a written communication (including a communication by letter or electronic medium) or oral communication (including a communication by telephone or in person) that:

- (1) concerns any substantive issue in a formal proceeding,
- (2) takes place between an interested person and a decisionmaker, and
- (3) does not occur in a public hearing, workshop, or other public setting, or on the record of the proceeding.

Communications limited to inquiries regarding the schedule, location, or format for hearings, filing dates, identity of parties, and other such nonsubstantive information are procedural inquiries not subject to any restriction or reporting requirement in this Article.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 7 [PU Code § 1701.1(c)(4)(A)-(C)]

- (f) “Decisionmaker” means any Commissioner, the Chief Administrative Law Judge, any Assistant Chief Administrative Law Judge, or the assigned Administrative Law Judge, and in adjudicatory proceedings any Commissioner’s personal advisor.
- (g) “Ex parte communication concerning categorization” means a written or oral communication on the category of any proceeding, between an interested person and any Commissioner, any Commissioner’s personal advisor, the Chief Administrative Law Judge, any Assistant Chief Administrative Law Judge, or the assigned Administrative Law Judge that does not occur in a public hearing, workshop, or other public setting, or on the record of the proceeding.
- (h) “Interested person” means any of the following:
 - (1) any applicant, protestant, respondent, petitioner, complainant, defendant, interested party who has made a formal appearance, Commission staff of record, or the agents or employees of any of them, including persons receiving consideration to represent any of them;
 - (2) any person with a financial interest, as described in Article I (commencing with Section 87100) of Chapter 7 of Title 9 of the Government Code, in a matter at issue before the Commission, or such person’s agents or employees, including persons receiving consideration to represent such a person; or
 - (3) a representative acting on behalf of any formally organized civic, environmental, neighborhood, business, labor, trade, or similar association who intends to influence the decision of a Commission member on a matter before the Commission, even if that association is not a party to the proceeding.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 7 [PU Code § 1701.1(c)(4)(A)-(C)]

- (i) “Person” means a person or entity.
- (j) “Commission staff of record” includes staff from the Office of Ratepayer Advocates assigned to the proceeding, staff from the Consumer Services Division assigned to an adjudicatory or other complaint proceeding, and any other staff assigned to an adjudicatory proceeding in an advocacy capacity.

“Commission staff of record” does not include the following staff when and to the extent they are acting in an advisory capacity to the Commission with respect to a formal proceeding: (1) staff from any of the industry divisions; or (2) staff from the Consumer Services Division in a quasi-legislative proceeding, or in a ratesetting proceeding not initiated by complaint.

- (k) “Presiding officer” means, for purposes of this Article, one of the following, as appropriate:
- (1) In an adjudicatory proceeding, either the assigned Commissioner or the assigned Administrative Law Judge, depending on which of them is designated, in the scoping memo, to preside in the proceeding;
 - (2) In a ratesetting proceeding, the principal hearing officer designated as such by the assigned Commissioner prior to the first hearing in the proceeding, except that, where the assigned Commissioner is acting as principal hearing officer, the assigned Administrative Law Judge shall act as presiding officer in the assigned Commissioner’s absence; or
 - (3) In a quasi-legislative proceeding, the assigned Commissioner, except that the assigned Administrative Law Judge, in the assigned Commissioner’s absence, shall act as presiding officer at any hearing other than a formal hearing, as defined in Rule 8(f)(2).
- (l) “Principal hearing officer” means the assigned Commissioner in a ratemaking or quasi-legislative proceeding, or the assigned Administrative Law Judge in a ratemaking proceeding if, prior to the first hearing in the proceeding, he or she has been designated by the assigned Commissioner as the principal hearing officer for that proceeding.
- (m) “Scoping memo” means an order or ruling describing the issues to be considered in a proceeding and the timetable for resolving the proceeding. In an adjudicatory proceeding, the scoping memo shall also designate the presiding officer.

6. (Rule 6) Start of Proceedings; Proposed Schedules.

(a) Applications.

- (1) Any person that files an application after January 1, 1998, shall state in the application the proposed category for the proceeding, the need for hearing, the issues to be considered, and a proposed schedule. As described in Rule 6.1(a), the Commission shall issue a resolution that preliminarily categorizes and preliminarily determines the need for hearing in the proceeding.

- (2) Any person protesting or responding to an application shall state in the protest or response any comments or objections regarding the applicant's statement on the proposed category, need for hearing, issues to be considered, and proposed schedule.
- (3) The assigned Commissioner shall consider the application, protests, and responses, and the prehearing conference statements (if one is held), and shall rule on the category, need for hearing, and scoping memo. The ruling shall also designate the principal hearing officer or presiding officer, as appropriate. The assigned Commissioner has discretion to rule on any or all of these matters on the record at the prehearing conference. The ruling, only as to the category, is appealable under the procedures in Rule 6.4.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 7 [PU Code § 1701.1]

(b) **Complaints.**

- (1) Any person that files a complaint after January 1, 1998, shall state in the complaint the proposed category for the proceeding, the need for hearing, the issues to be considered, and a proposed schedule. The Docket Office shall serve instructions to answer on the defendant, with a copy to the complainant, indicating (i) the date when the defendant's answer shall be filed and served, and (ii) the Administrative Law Judge assigned to the proceeding. The instructions to answer shall also indicate the category of the proceeding and the need for hearing, as determined by the Chief Administrative Law Judge in consultation with the President of the Commission. The determination as to the category is appealable under the procedures in Rule 6.4.
- (2) The defendant shall state in the answer any comments or objections regarding the complainant's statement on the need for hearing, issues to be considered, and proposed schedule.
- (3) The assigned Commissioner shall consider the complaint and answer, and the, prehearing conference statements (if one is held), and shall rule on the scoping memo. The ruling shall also designate the principal hearing officer or presiding officer, as appropriate. The assigned Commissioner has discretion to rule on any or all of these matters on the record at the prehearing conference.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 7 [PU Code § 1701.1]

(c) **OSCs, OIIs, OIRs.**

- (1) A Commission order to show cause or order instituting investigation, issued after January 1, 1998, shall determine the category and need for hearing, and shall attach a preliminary scoping memo. The order, only as to the category, is appealable under the procedures in Rule 6.4. Any person filing a response to an order to show cause or order instituting investigation shall state in the response any objections to the order regarding the need for hearing, issues to be considered, or schedule, as set forth in the order. At or after the prehearing conference if one is held, the assigned Commissioner shall rule on the scoping memo. The ruling shall also designate the principal hearing officer or the presiding officer, as appropriate.
- (2) A Commission order instituting rulemaking, issued after January 1, 1998, shall preliminarily determine the category and need for hearing, and shall attach a preliminary scoping memo. Any person filing a response to an order instituting rulemaking shall state in the response any objections to the order regarding the category, need for hearing, and preliminary scoping memo. At or after the prehearing conference if one is held, the assigned Commissioner shall rule on the category, need for hearing, and scoping memo. If the proceeding is categorized as ratesetting, the ruling shall also designate the principal hearing officer. The ruling, only as to category, is appealable under the procedures in Rule 6.4.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 7 [PU Code § 1701.1]

(d) **Proceeding Filed Before January 1, 1998.**

Where the rules and procedures of this Article apply to a proceeding by virtue of Rule 4(b)(2), the ruling or order that determines a hearing should be held shall also preliminarily determine the category for the proceeding, and shall set a prehearing conference. At or after the prehearing conference, the assigned Commissioner shall rule on the category, need for hearing, and scoping memo. The ruling shall also designate the principal hearing officer or presiding officer, as appropriate. The ruling, only as to the category, is appealable under the procedures in Rule 6.4.

- (e) Any party's proposed schedule for purposes of this rule shall be consistent with the proposed or finally determined category, as appropriate, including a deadline for resolving the proceeding within 12 months or less (adjudicatory proceeding) or 18 months or less (ratesetting or quasi-legislative proceeding). The proposed schedule shall also take into account the number and complexity of issues to be considered, the number of parties expected to participate, the need for and expected duration of hearings, and any other factors that the party wants the assigned Commissioner to weigh in ruling on the scoping memo.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 7 [PU Code § 1701.1(b)]

6.1 (Rule 6.1) Determination of Category and Need for Hearing.

- (a) By resolution at each Commission business meeting, the Commission shall preliminarily determine, for each proceeding initiated by application filed on or after the Commission's prior business meeting, the category of the proceeding and the need for hearing. The preliminary determination may be held for one Commission business meeting if the time of filing did not permit an informed determination. The preliminary determination is not appealable but shall be confirmed or changed by assigned Commissioner's ruling pursuant to Rule 6(a)(3), and such ruling as to the category is subject to appeal under Rule 6.4.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 7 [PU Code § 1701.1(a)-(c)(1)-(3)]

- (b) When a proceeding may fit more than one category as defined in Rules 5(b), 5(c), and 5(d), the Commission may determine which category appears most suitable to the proceeding, or may divide the subject matter of the proceeding into different phases or one or more new proceedings.
- (c) When a proceeding does not clearly fit into any of the categories as defined in Rules 5(b), 5(c), and 5(d), the proceeding will be conducted under the rules applicable to the ratesetting category unless and until the Commission determines that the rules applicable to one of the other categories, or some hybrid of the rules, are best suited to the proceeding.
- (d) In exercising its discretion under subsections (b) and (c) of this rule, the Commission shall so categorize a proceeding and shall make such other procedural orders as best to enable the Commission to achieve a full, timely, and effective resolution of the substantive issues presented in the proceeding.

6.2 (Rule 6.2) Prehearing Conferences.

Whenever a proceeding seems likely to go to hearing, the assigned Commissioner shall set a prehearing conference as soon as practicable after the Commission makes the assignment. The ruling setting the prehearing conference may also set a date for filing and serving prehearing conference statements. Such statements may address the schedule, the issues to be considered, any matter related to the applicability of this Article to the proceeding, and any other matter specified in the ruling setting the prehearing conference.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 7 [PU Code § 1701.1(b)]

6.3 (Rule 6.3) Scoping Memos.

At or after the prehearing conference (if one is held), or if there is no prehearing conference as soon as possible after the timely filing of the responsive pleadings (protests, responses, or answers, as appropriate), the assigned Commissioner shall rule on the scoping memo for the proceeding, which shall finally determine the schedule (with projected submission date) and issues to be addressed. In an adjudicatory proceeding, the scoping memo shall also designate the presiding officer.

6.4 (Rule 6.4) Appeals of Categorization.

- (a) Any party may file and serve an appeal to the Commission, no later than 10 days after the date of: (1) an assigned Commissioner's ruling on category pursuant to Rule 6(a)(3), 6(c)(2), or 6(d); (2) the instructions to answer pursuant to Rule 6(b)(1); or (3) an order to show cause or order instituting investigation pursuant to Rule 6(c)(1). Such appeal shall state why the designated category is wrong as a matter of law or policy. The appeal shall be served on the Commission's General Counsel, the Chief Administrative Law Judge, the President of the Commission, and all persons who were served with the ruling, instructions to answer, or order.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 7 [PU Code § 1701.1(a)]

- (b) Any party, no later than 15 days after the date of a categorization from which timely appeal has been taken pursuant to subsection (a) of this rule, may file and serve a response to the appeal. The response shall be served on the appellant and on all persons who were served with the ruling, instructions to answer, or order. The Commission is not obligated to withhold a decision on an appeal to allow time for responses. Replies to responses are not permitted.

6.5 (Rule 6.5) Approval of Changes to Preliminary Determinations.

- (a) If there is no timely appeal under Rule 6.4, but the assigned Commissioner, pursuant to Rules 6(a)(3), 6(c)(2), or 6(d), changes the preliminary determination on category, the assigned Commissioner's ruling shall be placed on the Commission's Agenda for approval of that change.
- (b) If the assigned Commissioner, pursuant to Rules 6(a)(3), 6(c)(2), or 6(d), changes the preliminary determination on need for hearing, the assigned Commissioner's ruling shall be placed on the Commission's Consent Agenda for approval of that change.

6.6 (Rule 6.6) Proceedings Without Hearings.

Whenever there is a final determination in a proceeding, pursuant to Rules 6-6.5, that a hearing is not needed in the proceeding, ex parte communications shall be permitted, as provided in Rule 7(e); in all other respects, the rules and procedures in this Article shall cease to apply to that proceeding. However, the scoping memo issued for the proceeding shall continue to apply to the proceeding as to all matters covered in the memo.

7. (Rule 7) Ex Parte Communications: Applicable Requirements.

(a) The requirements of this subsection apply during the period between the beginning of a proceeding and the final determination of the category of that proceeding by ruling of the assigned Commissioner or Commission decision on any appeal of categorization. Following the final determination of the category, the requirements of subsections (b), (c), or (d) of this rule apply, as appropriate.

(1) In a proceeding that the Commission initiates, the requirements of subsections (b), (c), or (d) of this rule shall apply, depending on the Commission's preliminary determination of the category in the order initiating the proceeding.

(2) In a proceeding initiated by a complaint, regardless of the complainant's proposed category for the proceeding, ex parte communications shall be prohibited.

(3) In a proceeding initiated by an application, regardless of the applicant's proposed category for the proceeding, the requirements of subsection (c) of this rule shall apply.

(b) In any adjudicatory proceeding, ex parte communications are prohibited.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 8 [PU Code § 1701.2(b)]

(c) In any ratesetting proceeding, ex parte communications are permitted only if consistent with the following restrictions, and are subject to the reporting requirements set forth in Rule 7.1:

(1) Oral ex parte communications are permitted at any time with a Commissioner provided that the Commissioner involved (i) invites all parties to attend the meeting or sets up a conference call in which all parties may participate, and (ii) gives notice of this meeting or call as soon as possible, but no less than three days before the meeting or call.

- (2) If an ex parte communication meeting or call is granted by a decisionmaker to any party individually, all other parties shall be sent a notice at the time that the request is granted (which shall be no less than three days before the meeting or call), and shall be offered individual meetings of a substantially equal period of time with that decisionmaker. The party requesting the initial individual meeting shall notify the other parties that its request has been granted, at least three days prior to the date when the meeting is to occur. At the meeting, that party shall produce a certificate of service of this notification on all other parties. If the communication is by telephone, that party shall provide the decisionmaker with the certificate of service before the start of the call. The certificate may be provided by facsimile transmission.
- (3) Written ex parte communications are permitted at any time provided that the party making the communication serves copies of the communication on all other parties on the same day the communication is sent to a decisionmaker.
- (4) In any ratesetting proceeding, the Commission may establish a period during which no oral or written communications on a substantive issue in the proceeding shall be permitted between an interested person and a Commissioner, a Commissioner's personal advisor, the Chief Administrative Law Judge, any Assistant Chief Administrative Law Judge, or the assigned Administrative Law Judge. Such period shall begin not more than 14 days before the Commission meeting date on which the decision in the proceeding is scheduled for Commission action. If the decision is held, the Commission may permit such communications for the first half of the hold period, and may prohibit such communications for the second half of the period, provided that the period of prohibition shall begin not more than 14 days before the Commission meeting date to which the decision is held.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 9 [PU Code § 1701.3(c)]

- (d) In any quasi-legislative proceeding, ex parte communications are allowed without restriction or reporting requirement.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 10 [PU Code § 1701.4(b)]

- (e) The requirements of subsections (b) and (c) of this rule, and any reporting requirements under Rule 7.1, shall cease to apply, and ex parte communications shall be permitted, in any proceeding in which (1) no timely answer, response, protest, or request for hearing is filed after the pleading initiating the proceeding, (2) all such responsive pleadings are withdrawn, or (3) there has been a final determination that a hearing is not needed in the proceeding. However, if there has been a request for hearing, the requirements continue to apply unless and until the request has been denied.

- (f) Ex parte communications concerning categorization of a given proceeding are permitted, but must be reported pursuant to Rule 7.1(a).

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 7 [PU Code § 1701.1(a)]

- (g) When the Commission determines that there has been a violation of this rule or of Rule 7.1, the Commission may impose penalties and sanctions, or make any other order, as it deems appropriate to ensure the integrity of the record and to protect the public interest.

7.1 (Rule 7.1) Reporting Ex Parte Communications.

- (a) Ex parte communications that are subject to these reporting requirements shall be reported by the interested person, regardless of whether the communication was initiated by the interested person. An original and seven copies of a “Notice of Ex Parte Communication” (Notice) shall be filed with the Commission’s San Francisco Docket Office within three working days of the communication. The Notice shall include the following information:
 - (1) The date, time, and location of the communication, and whether it was oral, written, or a combination;
 - (2) The identities of each decisionmaker involved, the person initiating the communication, and any persons present during such communication;
 - (3) A description of the interested person’s, but not the decisionmaker’s, communication and its content, to which description shall be attached a copy of any written, audiovisual, or other material used for or during the communication.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 7 [PU Code § 1701.1(c)(4)(C)(i)-(iii)]

- (b) These reporting requirements apply to ex parte communications in ratesetting proceedings and to ex parte communications concerning categorization. In a ratesetting proceeding, communications with a Commissioner’s personal advisor also shall be reported under the procedures specified in subsection (a) of this rule.

8. (Rule 8) Oral Arguments and Commissioner Presence.

- (a) In any adjudicatory proceeding, if an application for rehearing is granted, the parties shall have an opportunity for final oral argument before the assigned Administrative Law Judge (or before the assigned Commissioner, if the latter presides at the rehearing).

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 8 [PU Code § 1701.2(d)]

- (b) In any ratesetting proceeding, the assigned Commissioner shall be present at the closing argument and, if acting as principal hearing officer, shall be present for more than one-half of the hearing days.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 9 [PU Code § 1701.3(a)]

- (c) In any ratesetting proceeding, a party may request the presence of the assigned Commissioner at a formal hearing or specific portion of a formal hearing. The request may be made in a pleading or a prehearing conference statement. Alternatively, the request may be made by filing and serving on all parties a letter to the assigned Commissioner, with a copy to the assigned Administrative Law Judge. The request should be made as far as possible in advance of the formal hearing, and should specify (1) the witnesses and/or issues for which the assigned Commissioner's presence is requested, (2) the party's best estimate of the dates when such witnesses and subject matter will be heard, and (3) the reasons why the assigned Commissioner's presence is requested. The assigned Commissioner has sole discretion to grant or deny, in whole or in part, any such request. Any request that is filed five or fewer business days before the date when the subject hearing begins may be rejected as untimely.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 9 [PU Code § 1701.3(a)]

- (d) In ratesetting proceedings and in quasi-legislative proceedings, a party has the right to make a final oral argument before the Commission, if the party so requests within the time and in the manner specified in the scoping memo or later ruling in the proceeding. A quorum of the Commission shall be present for such final oral argument.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 9 [PU Code § 1701.3(d)]; Sec. 10 [PU Code § 1701.4(c)]

- (e) In quasi-legislative proceedings, the assigned Commissioner shall be present for formal hearings.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 10 [PU Code § 1701.4(a)]

- (f) For purposes of this rule, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Adjudicative facts" answer questions such as who did what, where, when, how, why, with what motive or intent.
- (2) "Formal hearing" generally refers to a hearing at which testimony is offered or comments or argument taken on the record; "formal hearing" does not include a workshop. In a quasi-legislative proceeding, "formal hearing" includes a hearing at which testimony is offered on legislative facts, but does not include a hearing at which testimony is offered on adjudicative facts.

- (3) “Legislative facts” are the general facts that help the tribunal decide questions of law and policy and discretion.
- (4) “Present” or “presence” at a hearing means physical attendance in the hearing room, or remote attendance (to the extent permitted by law) by electronic communications link, sufficient to familiarize the attending Commissioner with the substance of the evidence, testimony, or argument for which the Commissioner’s presence is required or requested. “Electronic communications links” includes, without limitation, audio, visual, and/or textual media establishing real-time, two-way communication between the hearing room and the attending Commissioner.

8.1 (Rule 8.1) Proposed Decisions and Decisions in Ratesetting and Quasi-legislative Proceedings.

- (a) A ratesetting or quasi-legislative proceeding shall stand submitted for decision by the Commission after the taking of evidence, and the filing of briefs or the presentation of oral arguments, as ordered in the proceeding. The Commission’s Daily Calendar shall include a table of submission dates listing all such dates (with the corresponding proceedings) that occurred during the two weeks preceding the date of the calendar.
- (b) In ratemaking and quasi-legislative proceedings, the principal hearing officer shall prepare a proposed decision setting forth recommendations, findings, and conclusions. The proposed decision shall be filed with the Commission and served on all parties without undue delay, not later than 90 days after submission. As provided in Rules 77.1-77.6, parties may comment on the proposed decision.

Applicants in matters involving buses, vessels, public utility sewer systems, or public utility pipelines may make an oral or written motion to waive the filing of comments on the proposed decision. Any party objecting to such waiver will have the burden of demonstrating that filing of comments is in the public interest.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 5 [PU Code § 311(d)]

- (c) The Commission, in issuing its decision in a ratesetting or quasi-legislative proceeding, may adopt, modify, or set aside all or part of the proposed decision, based on the evidence in the record. The decision of the Commission shall be issued not later than 60 days after issuance of the proposed decision. The Commission may extend the deadline for a reasonable period under extraordinary circumstances. The 60-day deadline shall be extended for 30 days if any alternate decision is proposed.
- (d) In a ratesetting proceeding where a hearing was held, the Commission may meet in closed session to consider its decision, provided that the Commission has

established a period as described in Rule 7(c)(4). In no event shall the period during which the Commission may meet in closed session exceed the period described in Rule 7(c)(4).

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 9 [PU Code § 1701.3(e)]; Sec. 10 [PU Code § 1701.4(e)]

8.2 (Rule 8.2) Decisions, Appeals, and Requests for Review in Adjudicatory Proceedings.

- (a) An adjudicatory proceeding shall stand submitted for decision by the Commission after the taking of evidence, and the filing of briefs or the presentation of oral arguments as prescribed by the Commission or the presiding officer. The Commission's Daily Calendar shall include a table of submission dates listing all such dates (with the corresponding proceedings) that occurred during the two weeks preceding the date of the calendar.
- (b) In an adjudicatory proceeding in which a hearing was held, the presiding officer shall prepare a decision setting forth the findings, conclusions, and order. The decision of the presiding officer shall be filed with the Commission and served on all parties without undue delay, not later than 60 days after submission. The decision of the presiding officer shall constitute the proposed decision where one is required by law, and shall become the decision of the Commission if no appeal or request for review is filed within 30 days after the date the decision is mailed to the parties in the proceeding. The comment procedure in Rules 77.1-77.6 does not apply to a presiding officer's decision. However, the presiding officer has discretion, at any time before the 30-day appeal period has begun to run, to authorize comments on a draft decision or a portion thereof. The Commission's Daily Calendar shall include a table that lists, for the two weeks preceding the date of the calendar, each decision of a presiding officer that has become the decision of the Commission. The table shall indicate the proceeding so decided and the date when the presiding officer's decision became the decision of the Commission.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 8 [PU Code § 1701.2(a)]

- (c) The complainant, defendant, respondent, or any intervenor in an adjudicatory proceeding may file and serve an appeal of the decision of the presiding officer within 30 days of the date the decision is mailed to the parties in the proceeding.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 8 [PU Code § 1701.2(a)]

- (d) Any Commissioner may request review of the decision of the presiding officer in an adjudicatory proceeding by filing and serving a request for review within 30 days of the date the decision is mailed to the parties in a proceeding.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 8 [PU Code § 1701.2(a)]

- (e) Appeals and requests for review shall set forth specifically the grounds on which the appellant or requestor believes the decision of the presiding officer to be unlawful or erroneous. The purpose of an appeal or request for review is to alert the Commission to a potential error, so that the error may be corrected expeditiously by the Commission. Vague assertions as to the record or the law, without citation, may be accorded little weight. Appeals and requests for review shall be served on all parties and accompanied by a certificate of service.
- (f) Any party may file and serve its response no later than 15 days after the date the appeal or request for review was filed. In cases of multiple appeals or requests for review, the response may be to all such filings and may be filed 15 days after the last such appeal or request for review was filed. Replies to responses are not permitted. The Commission is not obligated to withhold a decision on an appeal or request for review to allow time for responses to be filed.
- (g) In any adjudicatory proceeding in which a hearing is held, the Commission may meet in closed session to consider the decision of the presiding officer that is under appeal pursuant to subsection (c) of this rule. The vote on the appeal or a request for review shall be in a public meeting and shall be accompanied by an explanation of the Commission's decision, which shall be based on the record developed by the presiding officer. A decision different from that of the presiding officer shall include or be accompanied by a written explanation of each of the changes made to the presiding officer's decision.

SB 960 Reference: Sec. 8 [PU Code § 1701.2(c)]